



Civilian Conservation Corps Garbage Receptacles

Introduction

Between 1933 and 1941 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was active in the newly created Tucson Mountain Park (TMP). During that time the CCC was tasked with making improvements to the park for the enhancement of the visitor's experience. In 1961 the northern portion of TMP was withdrawn from the county park and added to Saguaro National Monument. Today most of those CCC improvements may be found within Saguaro National Park's Tucson Mountain District (TMD).

The CCC created eight picnic areas, five of which are in TMD. At these picnic areas the CCC built tables with benches, fire places, shelter houses, ramadas, restrooms or comfort stations (CCC referred to restrooms as latrines) and garbage receptacles.

Description

Originally the CCC constructed ten garbage receptacles at the picnic areas within TMD and at least four in TMP. The number of garbage receptacles is derived from the CCC 1937 Tucson Mountain Park Master Plan map (see illustration below). When the picnic areas were inventoried in 2012 only one garbage receptacle was found to be intact, and only remains of three others could be found.

The only intact CCC garbage receptacle is at the Mam-A-Gah picnic area at TMD. It still retains a garbage pail which has been turned upside down within the receptacle. It is associated with Table 1 and Fireplace 1 located at the end of the ridge. It is constructed of stone with concrete mortar and has a metal liner that is connected to the retractable cover (see photographs at right). The cover has a built-in smaller foot-activated cover for visitor use. The maximum exterior diameter of the rockwork is roughly 3ft.; the interior is 18.5" in diameter and is 24.5" deep.

The remains of a second garbage receptacle can be found at Sus, while the remains of two others can be found at Gates Pass in TMP. There are also a few historic photographs of other garbage receptacles that no longer exist. One of these is of Mam-A-Gah, taken in the 1960s during the NPS rehabilitation of the picnic area while another appears to be a 1930s photograph of one at Signal



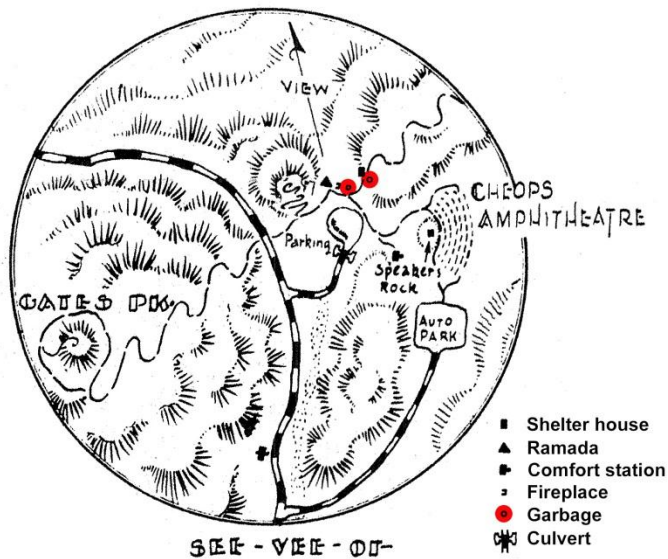
The intact garbage receptacle at Mam-A-Gah. Photograph taken in 1982.



The intact garbage receptacle at Mam-A-Gah with foot-activated cover in the up position. This garbage receptacle is associated with a picnic table and fireplace located at the end of the ridge. Photograph taken in 2013.

Hill (see photograph on page two) next to the small ramada. A third photograph shows a partially completed garbage receptacle behind the ramada at Gates Pass. Both garbage receptacles at Gate Pass stand much higher than the ones documented at TMD. No doubt this is because of the bedrock that covers much of the surface of Gates Pass renders excavation difficult.

Cultural Resource Brief



A detail of the 1937 CCC Tucson Mountain Base Map showing the locations of the two garbage receptacles at Gates Pass (referred to as See-Vee-Of by the CCC). In this figure the garbage receptacles have been highlighted in red.



A photograph taken in the 1930s showing the small ramada at Signal Hill. Note the garbage receptacle with foot-activated cover lever at the lower left. This receptacle no longer exists. Signal Hill is in the background.



The foundations of three garbage receptacles. The intact garbage receptacle at Mam-A-Gah and these three foundations are all that remain of the 14 garbage receptacles constructed by the CCC at TMD/TMP. a: Sus; b: lower of the two garbage receptacles at Gates Pass; c: the upper garbage receptacle at Gates Pass which is associated with the Shelter House.

Visiting CCC Features

Remember, the CCC features are an important part of our local history and as such are significant cultural resources. Please be respectful and act accordingly.

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